LONG ISLAND FORUM



Enlarged Building, Suffolk County Historical Museum, Riverhead. From Architect's Drawing. See Page 61.

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Entered as second-class matter May 31, 1947, at the post office at Amityville, New York, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor

Contributing Editors

Clarence A. Wood, LL.M., Ph.D. Malcolm M. Willey, Ph.D. John C. Huden, Ph.D.

APRIL, 1951

Suffolk's Enlarged Museum

The greatly enlarged and otherwise improved museum of the Suffolk County Historical Society at Riverhead is to be dedicated some time in the near future. The work was made possible through the will of the late Mrs. Cora B. Reeves Barnes, widow of Colonel William J. Barnes, one time president of the Society.

To fully equip the two new wings of the enlarged building, the Society needs funds beyond the legacy which provided them. For that reason a membership drive is now under way. In charge of this drive President John D. Hallock has appointed a committee consisting of Paul Bailey, chairman, Miss Louise Ockers and George L. Weeks. Dues are \$5 m year, which amount may be sent to Miss Rose P. Terry, Treasurer, Riverhead, or if sent to the Long Island Forum will be forwarded.

What Became of Wild Pigeons? By Eugene T. Osborn

Captain (Ret), U. S. Coast Guard

The one time super-abundance of Wild Pigeons on Long Island and elsewhere in America, and their rapid extinction, are responsible for a number of theories on the subject. What happened to these once popuwhat nappened to these once popular game-birds has been, and still is used extensively as the moral around which many have based conservation ideas and beliefs.

A story told me as a boy by a respected and honest citizen long.

respected and honest citizen, long since dead, who lived here in East Moriches has always intrigued me and created in my mind a very reasonable doubt as to whether mankind was solely responsible for the disappearance of this species.

The incident occurred when the narrator was himself a young boy (probably between 1865 and 1870) and concerned a spectacular and centinuous flight of Wild Pigeons over East Moriches which lasted from early morning until dark of the same day. The flight was of such vast proportions, I was told,

Continued on page 64

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Raynham Hall in Oyster Bay

O NE of Long Island's most historic and romantic old homes stands on West Main street, in Oyster Bay which Village itself has a history both unique and important in the annals of what is now Nassau County. The building is known as Raynham Hall and was built in 1740, a generation before this nation was born, by Samuel Townsend, a member of the First Provincial Congress and of a committee appointed in 1776 to frame a constitution for the State of New York.

On July 4, 1933 nearly two centuries after its erection, Raynham Hall was formerly opened to public inspection for the first time by the Oyster Bay C hapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is now maintained as a museum of colonial and other historic relics, by the Town of Oyster Bay.

During Revolutionary days many gay scenes were enacted in the maiestic ediface. Lieutenant Colonel Simcoe and other officers of the Rangers of the British occupational forces were quartered here. The troops were stationed at a fort which stood overooking the bay. Because of the presence of the Rangers and the frequent visits of British Warships to local waters, Oyster Bay was the scene of many social events.

Major John Andre stayed at Raynham Hall shortly before his capture at Tarrytown by American forces as a British spy, for which he paid the supreme sacrifice. Various stories have come down of the officer's admiration for Sarah, one of the several beautiful daughters of Samuel Townsend who, with his family, lived at Raynham Hall. According to Townsend family reports, Andre was a great joker. In the old china cunboard, still a part of the original dining room, he once hid H. P. Horton

Miss Sarah's skillfully made doughnuts and cakes, which she was to serve at a tea party. He disclosed their whereabouts only at the very last moment.

Of the young English Major's love for Sarah there is little doubt. Although it is not established that she re-

send", repented of his seeming familiarity and scratched the two lines through it.

A few feet to the west of the house are two boxwood trees which were old when the British officers drank tea in their shade. Near these boxwoods lie two mammoth iron links of the chain which was constructed early in 1778 and shortly thereafter was



Raynham Hall, Built 1740. From Watercolor by Cyril A. Lewis.

ciprocated, she never married. The chambers which Andre and Simcoe used, with their hewn-oak flooring, may still be seen. Above one doorway are three window panes upon which the British officers would scratch with a diamond various sentiments.

On one pane may still be clearly read: "The Adorable Miss Sarah." Under the Sarah is scratched "Sally Townsend" through which two lines are drawn. It is signed "J. W. Gill". Another pane reads: "Miss A. T. The Acompl young lady in O. B." The third pane bears the rame: "Sally Coles". It is thought that J. W. Gill, a lieutenant under Col. Simcoe, having written "Sally Town-

stretched across the Hudson at West Point to block the advance of the British fleet.

In the library of Raynham Hall is a photograph of the Articles of Agreement for the manufacture of the chain, between Noble, Townsend and Company, proprietors of the Sterling Iron Works, and Ouartermaster General Hughes of the United States Army. The entire chain was 500 yards in length with links 45 inches wide, made of the best sterling iron, 31-2 inches square. It cost about \$400,000.

Older than the chain and more closely associated with the Townsend family of Oyster Bay is the family clock which stands in the main hall. For

Continued on Page 75

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Visitors Welcome

The General Museum-Library of the Suffolk County Historical Society, at Riverhead, is open daily (except Sundays and Holidays) from one to five P. M.

Visitors always welcome (no charge) at this educational institution where items connected with Long Island's history, culture and natural sciences are on display.

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Continued From Page 62

that "sometimes the sky was black

The most amazing thing about this specific flight was, it seems, that the pigeons were all "headed out to sea" on a course which, if continued, would have eliminated any possibility of their reaching land. This is all I remember of the account except that my informant was of the opinion that very likely the birds perished at sea.

Taking into consideration tiny space occupied by Long Island on a general chart of the coastline of the United States and the wee pinpoint East Moriches would make thereon, the suicidal potentialities of all such flights taken together must have been tremendous. The number of Wild Pigeons that could have passed over Long Island on that one day staggers the imagination. My friend told me, If I re-member correctly, that he never saw a Wild Pigeon on Long Island after that occasion.

Similar flights of these birds inland and over the Great Lakes are said to have been not uncommon during that era. Audubon, in "Birds of America," is reported to have witnessed such a flight in Kentucky which lasted three days. In this book it is recorded that "the air was literally filled with them" and "the light of noonday was obscured as by an eclipse."

It is estimated that the number of pigeons passing overhead during only three hours (in a flock one mile wide) was one billion, one hundred fifteen million, one hundred and thirty-six thousand. Multiply this by the number of three-hour periods of flight during the three days and one may think he is reading the National budget.

Man has used poisons and other means of destruction to eradicate certain alleged undesirable crea-tures. His efforts have seldom met with complete success. But the Wild Pigeons, probably the most But the numerous species of bird in their day, disappeared entirely within such a relatively short time that many are not entirely agreed as to the cause. Was it a mass suicide? 261 261

Powhatan and Other Wrecks

I would appreciate any information your readers may give about the ship Powhatan, said to have been stranded (or wrecked) off Long Beach April 16, 1854, with a loss of 311 lives. I have no record of this ship in my Long Island Ship-wreck Ludor, which lists above 400 wreck Index which lists about 400 such episodes from 1660 to 1950.

I especially like the ship stories in the Forum. I recently obtained a photo of the figurehead of the

Continued on page 70

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Payne Never Lived at East Hampton

Editor's Note

Since the appearance in the March Forum of Dr. Wood's article entitled "Payne Did Visit East Hampton", among the letters received one in particular insisted that the author of Home Sweet Home not only visited East Hampton but lived there as a youth. The same writer was just as insistent that Payne was born in East Hampton until in 1948 Dr. Wood completely discredited that claim.

A LTHOUGH the contrary has been proven "beyond the peradventure of doubt", certain residents of East Hampton at the far reaches of Long sland are attempting to delude themselves and others by insisting that the birthplace of John Howard Payne is still "in dispute". They, however, reveal their own disbelief by now claiming that at least he "spent his youth" where his mother was born and his father was once a teacher.

Little was known about the childhood and youth of Payne until a century to the year after Payne in 1813 went to Europe where a decade later Home, Sweet Home was first sung in London.

In 1913 there was published a book entitled the Early life of John Howard Payne. It proves that he never lived at East Hampton nor spent his childhood nor his youth at East Hampton, by showing that those years of his life were spent elsewhere. The author is a resident of Schenectady, N. Y., the scat of Union University which Pavne attended from 1806 to 1808. He is Willis Tracy Hanson, a great-grandson of Alexander Conte Hanson, Member of Congress from Maryland and an early friend and patron of Payne.

The earlier Hanson in October 1812 offered Payne a job on his Baltimore newspaper, the Federal Republican. Payne declined the offer although he was at the time living on bor-

Dr. Glarence A. Wood

rowed money. Later Hanson and other friends of Payne raised a purse of \$2,000. This enabled Payne to sail for Europe the following January. The plan was for Payne to travel and study there for a short time only. However Payne remained abroad for nearly twenty years.

The book by Willis T. Hanson of Schenectady is based on original letters of Payne now in the library of Union University and on letters of others, copies of which now in the possession of Mr. Hanson were carefully transcribed by Payne while in Europe. These letters tell the story where Payne actually spent his early life. For the information of any who may want to check the references herein made to the Hanson book, there is or was a copy in the Home Sweet Home cottage at East Hampton.

Payne's father was William Payne and his mother was Sarah Isaacs. William Payne ceased to teach in Clinton Academy at East Hampton during the summer of 1790. His name appears in the directory of New York City for

1791. John Howard Payne was born in lower Manhattan. June 9, 1791 (Forum June and October 1948). The family moved to Boston when Payne was five or six years old (Hanson p. 27. The numerals in parentheses unless otherwise indicated, hereinafter refer to pages of the Hanson book). With no evidence of any kind to the contrary, it is natural and fair to presume that the Payne children including John lived during this period with their parents in New York as they did later in Boston.

Payne attended school in Boston until 1804 (17). In that city he organized a little military company (159). In his thirteenth year, while there, he was associated with another youth about his own age in the publication of a small paper called The Fly. The editor-in-chief, Samuel Woodworth, later wrote the Old Oaken Bucket. Payne during this period of his life also contributed to local papers (19).

The home ties at Boston were broken in November 1805. Payne was sent by his father to New York to learn



View of Home, Sweet Home, Showing Windmill

the business of his deceased elder brother William Osborn Payne (23). He wrote to his father the day after Christmas for a little money with which to buy a tooth brush and to get a haircut (32).

While vet thirteen in New York he drafted the prospectus of a literary paper to be called Pastime. It was not, however, published. Subsequently while in college he did publish for a time a paper with that name (33, 90).

That same year he edited and published anonimously and unbeknown to his father fourteen numbers of a small theatrical paper called The Thespian Mirror, the first issue of which was dated Dec. 28, 1805. (32, 35). He wrote at this time a comedy called Julia, which was produced at the Park Theatre, New York, Feb. 7, 1806 (41). His dramatic criticism in the Mirror attracted much attention (60).

William Coleman, editor of the New York Evening Post recently founded in 1801, invited the still unidentified editor of the Mirror to his home (37). He was surprised at the extreme youth of Payne and also captivated by his mentality (38).

Editor Coleman advised Payne to give up his paper and prepare to become a lawyer. He also influenced John E. Seaman to sponsor Payne's education. Seaman had been a particular friend of Payne's elder brother William (47). He offered to adopt Payne and to support him until of age in a profession (47). Payne at first refused to give up his paper and continued its publication. Eventually he did, however, give up the Mirror.

The professors at Columbia College agreed to waive their tuition fees (44). Princeton and a horse for Payne were considered by Seaman. While Princeton might be free from certain "seducing charms and baleful vices", it was thought to be not far enough from New

Continued on page 73

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Uriah Rogers, Southampton Merchant

FROM a letter book of Gelston & Saltonstall, Commission Merchants in New York City, referring to the years 1788 to 1791, interesting information has been gleaned regarding the products of Long Island farmers and craftsmen of that era.

This firm not only took merchandise on consignment from other merchants and producers but also bought and shipped to them whatever they wished. They had customers in Connecticut, New Jersey, Long Island, the West Indies and in the cities of Philadelphia, Boston and Richmond

Seventeen clients were from eastern Long Island, most of whom were merchants who obtained produce from the farmers, fishermen, etc., by paying cash or bartering. They also were speculators, who sometimes bought goods and had them shipped to other parts to be sold at a profit. These merchants lived in Sag Harbor. Southampton and East Hampton and probably knew David Gelston who had been born in Bridgehampton and moved to New York City. What he did for his country during the Revolution and the various offices he held, afterwards, is a story in itself.

It might be interesting to note that among these seventeen Long Island customers were William Payne of East Hampton. father of John Howard Payne, and John Jermaine of Sag Harbor, the grandfather of Mrs. Russell Sage

In those days much of the goods was shipped in round wooden containers ranging in size as follows: keg, barrel, tierce, hogshead, pipe and tun. A tun held 252 gallons which was what we would call a tank today. Wood was cheaper and the wages of a cooper, too. It was also easier to load such a cargo because the containers

N. R. Howell

could be rolled up the gangplank.

Over the three-year period of time which was before and after the new government of the United States was formed we will enumerate and discuss some transactions carried on



David Gelston

by Uriah Rogers of Southampton, a very prominent citizen of his community and a keen wide-awake merchant. Some of his descendants still live in Southampton.

Rogers seemed to be Gelston & Saltonstall's best Long Island customer. In June of 1788, a Captain Gates brought into the Port of New York 24 hogsheads of molasses, three hogsheads of rum, eleven barrels of sugar and one sack of cotton wool for Uriah Rogers, consigned to Gelston & Saltonstall. Perhaps coming from the West Indies, it was a speculation on Rogers' part. He must have made a good profit on the sugar because it sold for "the extravagant price of 17½ cents a pound."

In August, Rogers had sent to him by a coaster commanded by one Captain Parker, 1 hogshead of York Rum, 2 coils of rope, one two inch and the other two and one-half inch. Again in September, another hogshead of "tolerable good West India

Rum" costing Rogers three shillings six pence per gallon, was on its way to Southampton by way of the Port of Sag Harbor. No wonder Rogers was one of those who petitioned the government to have a wharf built there.

At this time a severe hurricane swept through the West Indies. Rogers asked G. & S.'s opinion about shipping lumber down there. They replied that it seemed good business to do so. Who knows but some of Long Island's pine timber found its way to those southern isles?

Rogers must have had a means of curing meat and pickling herring. In December of 1788, the commission house wrote that they would receive his tongues and beef hams as soon as he was sure they were cured. He evidently bought or took in trade the meat from the farmers, processed it and when he thought he had enough for a shipment and the market was right he would send it in. In February of the next year he did ship seven casks and two boxes of beef hams and one tierce containing 167 tongues.

During the winter there was a demand for herring. Rogers was asked to ship some as soon as possible. These fish must have been caught in neighboring waters and were obtained and processed under his supervision. This is evident because Gelston & Saltonstall advised him to add saltpeter to his pickle as it improved the looks of the fish and helped their sale.

During this time and up to 1807 large quantities of flax were raised on Long Island, principally for the seed. Rogers shipped to New York many bushels in shiploads of three or four hundred.

On February 13, 1789, Uriah Rogers inquired into the cost of casting a bell. It might have had some connection with the Presbyterian Church of Southampton. The Rogers family for generations have been interested in this church.

By April, Rogers had collected in trade tallow enough to fill three barrels which he shipped in with some other

goods.

He was very anxious to obtain 100 bushels of salt at once but being unable to get a prompt shipment by the way of Sag Harbor, he had it brought in to Quogue by a Captain Baker.

It is interesting to note that in April of 1789 Rogers inquired into the sale price of whale-oil. They replied that it was only 60 shillings a barrel and "we know of no good prospects." Evidently at this time, the ladies of Southampton needed some calico. David Gelston himself selected the goods which "we hope the choice will suit the fashions of Southampton."

Two hundred more bushels of salt were sent out by Captain Nathan Post. Salt was sold either by water or land measure. The cost of -this quantity was fixed by land

On April 31, 1789 an appeal was made by David Gelston to Rogers to line up the voters of his vicinity to help re-elect Governor George Clinton. His advice to Rogers was: "Be active, be vigilant, be watchful. Spare no pains. A few days more and the foundation will be laid for the future happiness or misery of unborn

millions."

In May of 1789, the New York firm received a quantity of alewives, very boney fish that were caught up the small streams where they went to spawn each spring. There was little demand for them, however. At that time business as a whole was greatly stagnated due to the "general suspicion in the minds of the people between the new government taking place and the dissolution of the old."

Mr. Rogers bought a sloop through Gelston & Saltonstall so that he would not have to pay freight on his goods to and from New York. At the same time he made his wife happy by buying three looking-glasses, their total cost amounting to thirteen pounds two shillings and three pence. A lot of money in those days. Gelston & Saltonstall wrote that they hoped they would please his wife.

In the fall of 1789, Rogers purchased some linseed oil, but not needing a whole barrel, he divided it with Stephen Howell of Sag Harbor. About this time it must have gotten a bit dry again as another hogshead of good rum from the West Indies was shipped to Rogers.

When at last his sloop, the Cynthia, was ready for delivery, Gelston & Saltonstall advised Rogers to send his own crew to man her because it would be much cheaper and at the same time they could carry 18 casks of gin on board, presumably a gift to the east end merchant prince from his the New York concern.

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Bailey's Long Island History

A limited number of sets of the Long Island History, compiled by Paul Bailey and published last year by the Lewis Historical Publishing Company of New York, has been made available through the Long Island Forum at onethird off the publishers' price.

This drastic reduction from the original price of \$46.50 is made possible by eliminating volume 3 which consists entirely of biographical sketches.

Volumes 1 and 2 comprise the complete History as compiled by Editor Bailey and written by leading authorities in every field, consisting of more than 1000 pages, 43 chapters and 200 illustrations.

These handsomely printed and bound deluxe books (size 8x10¾ inches) will be sent, while they last, in the same order that applications are received. Price \$30.

Besides the complete history of the island, from its discovery, including chapters on geology and archaeology, there are separate chapters on each of the towns in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, the history of the leading church denominations, whaling, fishing, shell fisheries, agriculture, medicine, banking, education, aviation and many other subjects.

Long Island Birdlife is compiled by Edwin Way Teale, nationally known authority; the island's mammals, by Dr. W. J. Hamilton, Cornell zoologist. The most extensive coverage of the island's Indians ever printed was prepared by John H. Morice. Among the authors represented are J. Russel Sprague, Dr. Oscar G. Darlington, Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood, Miss Jacqueline Overton, Rev. John K. Sharp, Chester R. Blakelock, Osborn Shaw, Herbert F. Preston R. Bassett, Robert R. Coles, Halsey B. Knapp, Nancy Boyd Willey, Mary E. Bell-in all more than forty such authorities.

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Capt. Kidd's Greasure Chest

MANY people have written of Captain Kidd, but I think few delved into so many old documents, both here and abroad as Harold T. Wilkins claimed to have done. He told of them in his book "Captain Kidd and his Skeleton Island.' He believed that Kidd was sacrificed not only to save the face of some former partners in high places, but also to appease the wrath of the Great Mogul whose ship had been taken by pirates, and his daughter maltreated. There was danger, claimed Wilkins, that he would drive the Great East India Company out of India and something had to be done about it. Kidd's death was that something.

It has been claimed that Kidd visited a number of places on Long Island, but I doubt that he buried treasure in all of them.

When we read a list of some of his possessions that are said to have been sold at auction after his death, one does not wonder there were many pirates on the high seas. Mr. Wilkins says he found the list in an old document in London. Here are a few items: ingots of gold and silver, diamonds, rubies, agats emeralds, crystals, cornelians and sapphires. A strange item "one sweet cod in a bladder" Mr. Wilkins thinks was probably musk.

This was not all his treasure. According to Wilkins, Kidd wrote to the House of Commons that if they would grant a reprieve and place him on a boat he would lead them to great treasure. But declares the author, public pressure was too great.

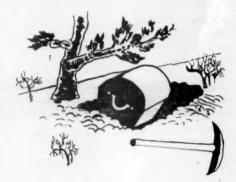
For many, many years, writes Mr. Wilkins, there was no clue as to where the bulk of Captain Kidd's treasure was buried. There was an old lady in England who was very fond of her many old treasures. Then one day she heard some one say "When the old lady

Kate W. Strong

dies we will have all her relics." She promptly sold her treasures to an antique shop. One was a very old chest, 26½ inches long, 13 inches wide and 16 inches deep. On the lid was a black flag, a silver skull-and-cross-bones and the date 1699. Below was carved "Captain Kidd his Chest." This was bought by someone interested in pirate lore. One day he discovered a loose nail near the bottom and found annear the bottom and found annear the bottom and found annear the short of the short of the strength of the short of the s

This bureau had runners to support the lid, one runner sealed with wax. When it was removed, carefully rolled up inside was another map. This had the name of a far eastern sea, but still no real clue as to the Island's whereabouts. Another chart was found under a looking glass on the bottom of a tray of another old sea chest. Each added a bit to the puzzle, but the key chart, for such there must be, was still missing.

At long last Mr. Wilkins



Sketched by Kay Trainer

other loose nail on the other side. On pulling them out, a false bottom came loose and on the underside was a map, a real pirate map, such as one sees in a work of fiction, but seldom in real life.

It was of some strange island, but no clue as to where it was to be found. Spots were marked with crosses and told exactly what kind of treasure was in each. The exact location of these spots was not revealed. Later another map turned up in an old bureau marked with a brass plate inscribed "Captain Kidd Adventure Gallev 1690", showing, claimed Wilkins, that Kidd had a much earlier ship by the same name as the one on which he made his historic voyage.

claims that a friend wrote him: "I have found the Key Chart." It was in the false bottom of still another old chest, with an inscription on a brass plate reading: "William and Sarah Kidd, Their Chest". A copy of one map is shown in Mr. Wilkins book but not the Key Map as the owner said he hoped to go there some day.

This map, he says, shows rocks, water, landing places, a swamp and a glen called the Valley of Death; also directions for finding each treasure. Mr. Wilkins believes this Island to be in the eastern Pacific, far off the regular ships lanes. He claims that some such island has been reported as seen and is shown on some old charts.

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Forum_

Continued From Page 64

famous clipper or square-rig ship Belle of Oregon wrecked off Westhampton Beach in 1992. The figurehead is now in the Mariners' Museum at Newport News, Va., probably the finest such institution in the country. Also photo of the historic steamship Franklin's figurehead, a very good likeness of Benjamin Franklin. This vessel was lost off Center Moriches in 1854.

The Franklin's figurehead stood for some time on a lawn at Bellport. Later it was sold and is now supposed to be in Maine. I wrote a story of the Franklin for the Forum a few years ago and have photos of the ship and its captain. The figurehead, if procurable, would make a nice exhibit for the Suffolk County Historical Society as the wreck occurred about ten miles to the south of its museum in Riverhead. The figurehead is six or seven feet high and was originally painted in several vivid colors.

Harry B. Squires, Bridgehampton

Mr. Squires' photographs of Long Island shipwrecks probably comprise the largest collection in existence. He comes rightfully by his interest in this field as his father was captain of the Louis V. Place from which he and most of the crew were lost off Cherry Grove in February 1895 when the ill-fated schooner went to pieces on the outer bar. In our own list of disastrous shipwrecks in Long Island waters, the Powhatan, referred to by Mr. Squires, is not mentioned. Editor.

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College Point Reformed Church

The College Point Reformed Church dates from the latter months of 1871. Its ecclesiastical formation was due to the efforts of its first pastor Rev. E. S. Fairchild. Its edifice and parsonage were the gift of the Poppenhusen family.

It was on Nov. 12, 1871 that Rev. Fairchild began to hold religious services at the Poppenhusen Institute. Such services were thenceforward held regularly in its main hall. Steps were soon taken looking to the organization of a church. In accordance with the action of the North Classis of the Reformed Church of Long Island, such organization was effected March 24, 1872 with Rev. Fairchild as pastor.

The members of its first consistory were Hugo Funke, elder Continued on next page Nassau Shores, Massapequa

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forum. Continued From Page 70

and Bernhard Greeff and Avery H.

Downer, deacons. In May 1872 Conrad Poppenhusen donated a sum sufficient to construct and partially maintain a place of worship. This he did in memory of two daughters then recently deceased.

The cornerstone was laid Nov. 9, 1872 and the building dedicated Sept. 28, 1873. A month later, Oct. 27, 1873, Adolph Poppenhusen présented a parsonage to the congre-

gation

A chapel for the use of the Sun-day School was built eight years later at the corner of Tenth Street and First Avenue, east of the church proper. This was the gift of Charles de Neufville, a teacher in the Sunday School and a deacon of the church. The chapel was dedicated on the evening of Dec. 6. 1881 and was first used by the Sunday School Sunday, Dec. 10, 1881

The church edifice was renova-ted in 1900. At that time the society had a membership of 143 and the Sunday School a membership of about 175. The consistory then included Hugo Funke, Walter Greenough and Alfred Schlesinger. The deacons were John D. Mac-Pherson, M. D., John H. Johnson and Jacob Salathe. The organists were Bernard Greeff, who had given his services since the organzation of the church, and a Miss Packard

Rev. Fairchild served the church as pastor until the end of 1878. At the time of the dedication of the chapel in 1881 he had removed to Chicago. His successor was Rev. Dr. Herman C. Berg who came in Jan. 1879 and left Feb. 1, 1889. He was succeeded by Rev. John Baumeister who continued as the pastor until Feb. 7, 1899. He then left to become an instructor in a Manhattan college.

Rev. Frank Malvey, a native of Port Jervis, assumed the pastorate Feb. 7, 1899. Born Oct. 16, 1866, he graduated from an academy at Port Jervis and from Rutgers College in 1893, and again in 1895 with advanced and professional degrees

Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood, Contributing Editor.

"Stage Waggon" of 1772

Among some old clippings which belonged to my mother, I found a notice of 1772 which announced that "Samuel Nicolls, Benjamin Havens and Nathan Fordham propose to

Continued on next page

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Long Island Forum Index

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erect a stage waggon to drive from Sag Harbor to Brooklyn Ferry once every week in summer and once a fortnight in winter. Fare one way 18 shillings. The notice continued:

"The stage will set out from Brooklyn Ferry at 10 a. m. Monday and that night will put up at Samuel Nicolls', in Hempstead Plains, where a waggon will be ready for their reception on Tuesday morning to carry them thence to Epenetus Smith's, Smithtown, and there exchange passengers, and then proceed to Benjamin Havens', at St. George's Manor, and on Wednesday morning set out for Nathan Fordham's, at Sag Harbor, where a passage boat will be ready to carry all passengers to New London, Connecticut.

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My mother belonged to the Havens family of Center Moriches. (Mrs.) Bess G. Humbert, Lynbrook.

Southampton's Old Church

One of the most historic churches on Long Island, without doubt, is the First Presbyterian Church, Southampton. Organized in New England in the spring of 1640, many consider it the oldest Presbyterian Church in America, as its form of government from the first was Presbyterian, although the Presbytery of Long Island was not organized until 1717.

Southampton's first church was built in 1640 on the south side of Meeting House Lane at the junction of Old Town road. The second building stood from 1653 to 1707 on the east side of South Main street, opposite the present Manse. The third stood from 1707 to 1843 on the northeast corner of Meeting House lane and Main street.

Continued on Page 76

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Payne - East Hampton

Continued from page 66

York. With a horse Payne might get to the metropolis too frequently and neglect his studies (54).

While Payne was absent in Boston, Seaman, much to the displeasure of his protege, decided to send Payne to Union College but recently established at Schenectady fourteen miles beyond Albany, with Eliphalet Nott as its first president (54).

Payne returned to New York after a visit to his parents in Boston about the middle of April, 1806 (55). Early in June he started for Schenectady by a packet sailboat up the Hudson. He tarried together with fellow travelers in Albany which he described as then "a poor, shabby looking little clump of houses" (57). Union College, he wrote his father, was "universally railed at here for the excessive and unexampled rigidity of its governors" (58).

To the later anger of Seaman who was paying his expenses, Payne continued on a junket trip toward Montreal. Col. Marinus Willett, the hero of the Revolutionary battle at Fort Stanwix, had urged him to come along with his new found friends (62). Falling out with a fellow passenger Payne got only as far as Glens Falls with but thirty-three cents in his pocket. He borrowed money of the stage driver, and of his landlord at Albany upon his return, to pay the driver. Mayor Van Rennselaer of Albany gave him \$90 with which to pay his debts (57-69).

Payne's formal education to this time was limited to the schooling he had acquired in Boston. Notwithstanding his precocity and editorial experience he was not prepared for admission to college classes. President Nott had been opposed to having Payne placed at his college (70). It had, nevertheless, been arranged that the head of the budding college should take Payne un-

der his wing and prepare him to enter the college classes. Payne finally arrived at Schenectady July 19. Thus it was that Payne became, believe it not, the roommate, chum and bedfellow of the first president of Union College (70, 71).

Payne was not permitted to go to New York during the ensuing summer vacation of fifteen weeks. Wherever thirty-four year old Nott went, fifteen year old Payne also went. They spent the latter part of the vacation at Albany. At the request of those dignitaries they visited the secretary of state and also Governor Lewis Morgan (70, 74). The following Christmas vacation Payne spent with his parents in Boston (72) and did not return to college until Feb. 10. 1807 because of illness (91).

During the spring vacation Payne traveled through New Jersey, visiting Trenton and Princeton. He also went to Philadelphia where he remained for some time (97). Before returning to college he stopped with friends at New York City (98). College closed July 29. Payne went to Boston in August and returned to Union the latter part of October (108).

Soon thereafter Payne broke with his patron Seaman over money matters (115), as he had previously broken with Editor Coleman who had induced Seaman to sponsor Payne's education. Payne claimed that Coleman had endeavored to injure him in the opinion of Seaman (51).

Payne's father, still residing at Boston, now reluctantly consented that John should try his hand on the stage, the desire of the boy's heart. He had not wanted to go to Union any more than President Nott had originally wanted him there (70). In November Payne left for Boston where he devoted three months in preparation for his new venture (121).

He made his debut as Young Norval at the Park Theatre, New York, Feb. 24, 1809,

where he performed seven nights. His success was complete (121, 122). He then returned to Boston (123). His first performance there as Young Norval was in the Old Federal Theatre, on April 2 (124). He thereafter "wandered from one end of the theatrical hemisphere" to the other with engagements at Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, Richmond, Charleston, Norfolk and Petersburg; then back to New York the middle of September (129-137).

His father moved from Boston to New York prior to September of 1809 and reestablished himself as a teacher there (136). When applying to John Jacob Astor for a loan on the security of a life insurance policy, John Howard Payne said he had "an interesting family dependent on his labors". The loan was refused (142-146).

Again Payne was playing from place to place; five days in Albany during April of 1811 (148, 149). In September he toured through the mountains of Virginia (149). In November he had an engagement in Philadelphia and another in Boston. After a disappointing experience in Philadelphia he returned to New York; then left for Boston where occurred a financial failure (154).

Payne's father died March 7, 1811 (154). His mother had previously died in Boston June 18, 1807 (105). Payne returned to New York to straighten out the affairs of his father (154). He later fulfilled a Baltimore engagement (155).

After in October 1812 he had declined the offer of employment on Alexander C. Hanson's newspaper, Payne sailed for Liverpool on the brig Catherine Ray Jan. 17, 1813 (156, 158).

Ten years passed. Anna Maria Tree sang Home, Sweet Home at Covent Garden Theatre, London, May 8, 1823. She won thereby a husband, and John Howard Payne, immortal fame.

In summation, attention is here drawn to the following facts of Payne's early life:

- 1. Payne is nowhere recorded as having said that he ever lived or "spent" either his childhood or his youth at East Hampton.
- 2. He did write that he visited East Hampton and of it obtained a passing glance.
- 3. 1791 to 1796: Payne during this period of his early childhood lived with his parents in New York City. Difficulties of travel then either by land or sea between Manhattan and eastern Long Island would preclude the probability of many visits by him to East Hampton.
- 4. 1796 to 1804: Payne was then living, from his sixth to his thirteenth year, with his parents in Boston. There he attended school.
- 5. 1804 to 1806: Payne was tied from eight to eight to an accountant's stool in New York. During this period of his early life he also published The Thespian Mirror.
- 6. 1806 to 1808: Payne was a student at Union College in upstate New York and was closely attached to its president.
- 7. 1808 to 1813: He left college in 1808. During this period of his later youth and early manhood he traveled from one end of the theatrical hemisphere to the other.

The marker in front of Home Sweet Home is not in



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the category of those which are seen along the highways of New York, placed there by the State Education Department. It is a hoax pure and simple. It should be removed either voluntarily by those responsible for its placement or by the State officials whose

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Rayham Hall in Oyster Bay

Continued from page 63

many years it stood in the house of Peter Townsend in Chester, Orange County, N. Y. He presented it to his daughter Anne as a wedding gift and she brought it to Raynham Hall when she went there in 1798, the bride of Captain Solomon Townsend, son of Samuel T.

Tradition has it that Washington sometimes consulted this clock on his visits to the Townsend home in Chester while supervising the construction of the chain. Also at Raynham Hall may be seen an ancient desk which crossed the Atlantic 36 times prior to 1776 in the ship of Captain Solomon Townsend, Raynham Hall, like some other Long Island mansions, also has its slave pen, together with many other reminders of the period when stalwart American colonists were giving birth to a nation.

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Forum

Continued From Page 72

It is believed that the first Sunday School on Long Island was organized in this church under the Rev. Peter Shaw 1821-29. In 1845 the third building was moved to 24 Main street and served as the Methodist Church until 1883.

The fourth and present church was erected in 1843 and the chapel in 1895.

Grace R. Colleran, Jamaica.

素 素 茶

I wonder if any reader could tell us some of the history of the old Al Leander Brown Hotel that stood for years at the corner of Bellmore avenue and Sunrise highway, the latter being only a cowpath in those days.

Mrs. Harry Brown, Bellmore * * *

The Name of Zerubabel

Zerubabel Hallock, or Halliock as the record has it, had a distinctive front name of Hebrew derivation. He was not born at Babel as the name would imply, nor was he or an ancestor one of the leaders of the first expedition of Hebrews to return from Babylonian captivity.

He was the grandson of William Hallock, one of the first settlers at Mattituck, in whose family the name Zerubabel was carried through four generations. Nearly all the old families of that vicinity have the blood of Zerubabel in their veins.

William's grandson married Esther Osman or Osborn in 1719. His daughter, named for her rother, married Richard Steers Hubbard, grandson of Richard Steer, Long Island's first poet. They were ancestors of Nathaniel Tuthill Hubbard.

Two sons of Zerubabel and Esther, William and John Hallock were drowned March 16, 1750. Zerubabel died April 8, 1761 in his 66th year, shortly after being taken into the local church. Esther, his wife, lived until Feb. 17, 1773, dying in her 78th year.

Others of their children were Daniel, died Aug. 5, 1753; Sarah, died Nov. 14, 1754; Benjamin, died Aug. 27, 1755 and James, died Sept. 27, 1756

The last survivor of the family who bore his father's name, spelled on his grave marker "Zerubbable," lived to be nearly 78, dying March

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* * * Wooden Pipelines

An old time Long Island custom, now seldom mentioned and perhaps long forgotten by most persons who heard of it as children, was that of running water from a spring to a house or barn by means of hollow logs. They were called "pump logs". Logs of soft wood some eight or ten feet long and perhaps six to ten inches in diameter were bored from end to end with long-handled one-inch bits. Not simply one such hole but a number were bored paralleling one another the length of the bark-less log.

An end of each such log was reamed out to receive the pointed end of another bored log, the number of logs used depending on the distance from spring to outlet. These logs, thoroughly dried out, were laid in a trench and as the water began to flow through the several holes the soft wood swelled, to make the joints water tight.

It was no simple task to cut, bore and fit these logs and to dig the trench in which they were to lie, but according to old time references to them it was a much lighter job than to tote buckets of water by hand every day and perhaps several times a day from spring to kitchen or outhouse.

These pump logs were used more generally in the center of the island and in other hilly sections

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where a down-grade led away from the spring and provided gravity for a steady flow of water. I doubt if such a system or any evidence of it still exists on the island. Orville Brush.

Jackson Heights.

* * * Fishing in 1893

The Greenport Watchman in Continued on page 77

A Booklet to Have And to Hold

The year 1950 will long be remembered by the good people of Smithtown because of the 275th Anniversary of the town's First Presbyterian Church. And those who did not attend the celebration staged at Smithtown Branch some months ago marking the event may still do the next best thing: procure a copy of the handsome, informative booklet issued for the occasion. It is not simply a souvenir describing the various pageants and other activities, but contains such historic items as transcripts of old Indian deeds and the town patent issued by Richard Nicolls to Richard Smith, the names of the town's Revolutionary Minutemen, and the list of the supervisors and town clerks from 1719 to the present. Needless to say, nobody but a Smith occupied Smithtown's highest public office up to 1797.

The present building of the church is its third and was dedicated September 9, 1827. Probably its most famous minister was the Rev. Joshua Hartt who served during the War for Independence. The present pastor, the Rev. Raymond H. Case, was chairman of the Anniversary Committee. Copies of the booklet may be obtained while they last by addressing

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Simplicity for the Trousseau

With spring and summer weddings in mind, students at the Traphagen School of Fashion, New York, have designed a group of trousseau gowns in which a beautiful simplicity proved to be the outstanding feature. The two shown here are equally alluring — it is only a matter of whether the bride wants to look like a Greek goddess (left) or impersonate a little girl in the romantic, old-fashioned manner, with just a dash of sophistication added (right).

Created by designers in their created by designers in their teens and early twenties who are trained in fashion rightness and combine it successfully with their



own youthful tastes, these designs express the young moderns' trend toward less ornamentation and more classic line in intimate as well

as outer apparel.

The Grecian nightdress may be made in any of a variety of fabrics satin, lingerie-weight or sheer crepes, or tricot weave material in silk, nylon or rayon. There is no decoration on this classic gown other than the deep band of elasticized shirring at the midriff. wide oval neckline, edged with a narrow binding of the material, continues into tabs which tie in bows at the shoulders.

The little-girl "nightie" is designed for crepe, satin or batiste, with the bodice vestee of tucked net edged with net ruffles as are the tiny sleeves. Tucks are repeated in the simulated skirt yoke, and a narrow ribbon sash snugs the waistline.

The gown in Greek influence was

designed by Jeanne Hiltenbrand, the high-necked style by Jacqueline Waterbury, both students at the Traphagen School in advanced design and illustration.

Continued from page 76

October 1893 ran a news item to the effect that Captain E. B. Tut-hill of East Marion had taken from his fish-trap on the east side of Fort Pond Bay, in one haul, 73 large sized boxes of bluefish, averaging about 10 or 12 pounds, in all about 29,200 pounds. It was an about 25,200 pounds. It was figured that at the market price ranging from 6 to 9 cents per pound, he wou'd receive around \$2,000 for the day's work. Not bad, except for the bluefish.

That same week the carcass of a 60-foot sulphur-bottom whale was found in the surf near the Mecox Life Saving station, and the blubber, tried out at Osborne Brothers' premises in Wainscott produced 25 barrels of oil, worth about \$800.

Also the same week, Captain Joshua Edwards reported a catch

of 320,000 fish, Captain Gabe Edwards, 325,000; Captain James Ward, 300,000; Captain George Smith, 250,000, and Captain Elijah Taman, 280,000, and Captain Enjan Taman, 280,000, according to the East Hampton Star of November 3, 1893. Although the item didn't say, I surmise that the fish caught were moss-bunkers (menhaden). George E. Case, Queens.

Another Oak Gone

I recently saw reported in the Patchogue Advance without com-ment the fact that a local land-scaper and his men had sawed down "one of the largest oak

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trees in Bellport". To quote further: "It took the men four hours to saw through the tree which was 4½ feet in diameter. By counting the rings it was determined the tree was over 200 years old."

I am wondering what the good people of Bellport thought of this

I am wondering what the good people of Bellport thought of this operation. Nothing was said in the item of a need to remove the tree. I am not a horticulturist, but I shudder when I learn of one of the island's great oaks being destroyed. This one was taken down previous to the November storm.

Cora Wade, West Hempstead.

** * **

Island's Old Mills

Looking over the October Forum and reading of Five Long Island Blacksmiths, by Marion F. Overton, I learn that there were seven generations of Terry's who were millers, beginning with the first Terry of Southold. As with the vanishing blacksmithrand his "spreading chestnut tree", I am trying to keep alive with my paintings of many of the Island's old gristmills.

Island's old gristmills.

Jan Bruce Terry, Patchogue.

Note: Artist Terry's paintings
were exhibited at the Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, during October.

Whenever I read one of Julian Denton Smith's articles such as "Fire Island's Sunken Forest" in your December issue, I feel like Oliver Twist, "I want some more." Some of the best reading in your journal is in the letters columns, viz.: "An Ice-Boat Story" (by Palph Albertson) also in the December 1980 of the December 1980

Some of the best reading in your journal is in the letters columns, viz.: "An Ice-Boat Story" (by Ralph Albertson), also in the December issue. These letters belie the frequent assertion that nowadays people do not write letters, but use the telephone instead.

L. A. Eldridge Jr., M. D., Rensselaerville, N. Y.

Dr. Eldridge was until his retirement a resident and civic worker of Great Neck, the locale of his ancestral home.

It is a pleasure to renew my subscription. Mrs. Florence Schwarting, West Hampton.

Correction

The page citation to Hedges History of East Hampton, 1897 edition at the conclusion of my article "Payne Did Visit at East Hampton" in the March edition of the Forum should have been 167 instead of 67.

Clarence Ashton Wood, Contributing Editor

Forum Articles Cited

Listed in the quarterly of the State Historical Association, for January, among recent outstanding articles, are the following from the Long Island Forum: Mrs. Estelle Valentine Newman's "Cold Spring Harbor Hotels;" Miss Marion F. Overton's "Five Long Island Blacksmiths," and Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood's "Findin's Keepin' Was the Rule" and "The Story of a Figurehead."

* * * Jamaica Twice Capital

The village of Jamaica served twice as the capital of the province of New York. In the fall of 1702 when New York City was infested with yellow fever, Lord Cornbury, governor, occupied the Jamaica Presbyterian parsonage, and again in 1753 when a similar epidemic struck Manhattan the gubernatorial seat was located for more than a month at the same Long Island village.

Upton Downs, Roving Reporter

25 35 35

I find the Forum most interesting and always look forward to receiving it. Being an old Long Islander (mother's forebears landed in Flushing in 1790), the articles on places, people and events of yesteryear appeal very strongly to me. William T. Simpson, Albany. (Former Senator Simpson and family summer at Stony Brook.)

And don't forget Ye Clarke
House at Greenport, built in 1831
Outper John Clarke. John
Quincy Adams, Walt Whitman and
more recently Admirals George
Dewey and Schley of Spanishmerican War fame, slept there.
I believe this place is still standing.
Horace Lightner,
New York.

Kings County Relics

Although the Schenck house in Kings County is to be preserved indoors at the Brooklyn Museum, it is not the oldest house in that Continued on back cover



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Continued From Page 78

county. This distinction, in the opinion of Kings County Historian James Kelly, belongs to the Wyck-off house. The Lady Deborah Moody house at Gravesend's four original squares as well as its cemetery are also still extant.

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